

Introduced by

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 25-06-02, 25-06-04, and 25-06-09 of the North  
2 Dakota Century Code, relating to the duties of the school for the blind, qualifications for  
3 admission, and duty to report blind persons; and to repeal section 25-06-07 of the North Dakota  
4 Century Code, relating to instruction at the school for the blind.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

6 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-06-02 of the 1999 Supplement to the North  
7 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

8 **25-06-02. ~~Object~~ Duties and responsibilities of school for the blind.** The school for  
9 the blind is a statewide resource and referral center for the provision of services to all blind or  
10 visually impaired residents of this state, including vision-specific consultations, evaluations,  
11 information, and training and loans of adaptive devices, equipment, and materials. It shall  
12 receive and educate blind and partially blind children who are residents of this state and who,  
13 because of this handicap, are not able to receive an appropriate education in the public schools  
14 of this state. For purposes of this chapter, a blind person is an individual who is totally blind or  
15 whose central visual acuity does not exceed twenty/two hundred in the better eye with  
16 corrective lenses, or the widest diameter of the visual field is no greater than twenty degrees;  
17 and a visually impaired person is an individual with an impairment in vision which, even with  
18 correction, adversely affects the individual's functional ability. The school for the blind shall:

- 19 1. Collect and distribute information on vision service programs available in the state.
- 20 2. Assist residents to access appropriate vision services.
- 21 3. Provide vision services, including vision-specific consultations, evaluations,  
22 information, training, and loans of adaptive devices, equipment, and materials.
- 23 4. Receive and educate blind or visually impaired residents of this state who, because  
24 of being blind or visually impaired, are not able to receive an appropriate education

1           in the public schools of this state. The school for the blind's education services  
2           must include instruction in general subjects and instruction in vision-specific  
3           subjects, including orientation, mobility, braille, braille music, daily living skills,  
4           technology, vocational training, and recreation.

5           **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-06-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7           **25-06-04. Qualifications for admission to school for the blind - Residents of state**  
8 **entitled to free education.** Applicants for admission to the school for the blind must be blind or  
9 ~~partially blind~~ visually impaired and unable to make suitable progress in the public schools of  
10 the state. The superintendent, with the approval of the superintendent of public instruction, may  
11 determine the age required for admission. The superintendent shall furnish application blanks  
12 upon request, and no person may be admitted to the institution until the application giving such  
13 information as the superintendent of public instruction requires has been returned to and  
14 approved by the superintendent of the school for the blind. An applicant admitted to the school  
15 for the blind must be furnished transportation by the school as provided in the student's  
16 individualized education program at the most economical rate possible, and yet meet the  
17 student's needs. Each such applicant who is a resident of this state and who, because of  
18 blindness and other handicaps is unable to receive an education in the public schools, is  
19 entitled to receive an education in the school for the blind at the expense of the state.

20           **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-06-09 of the 1999 Supplement to the North  
21 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

22           **25-06-09. Blind persons - Duty to report.** ~~It is the duty of every~~ Every public school  
23 superintendent, physician, ophthalmologist, oculist, optometrist, nurse, clinic, hospital, and  
24 social and welfare agency in this state ~~to~~ shall report in writing to the superintendent of the  
25 North Dakota school for the blind the name, age, and residence of persons under the age of  
26 twenty-one years who are blind within the definition of blindness as set forth in this ~~section~~  
27 chapter, and in such cases to furnish such additional pertinent information as the  
28 superintendent of the North Dakota school for the blind may request. All reports must be  
29 forwarded to the superintendent of the school for the blind within thirty days after diagnosis,  
30 examination, or discovery. ~~For the purposes of this chapter, a blind person is defined as one~~  
31 ~~who is totally blind or whose central visual acuity does not exceed twenty-two hundred in the~~

- 1 ~~better eye with corrective lenses, or the widest diameter of the visual field is no greater than~~
- 2 ~~twenty degrees.~~
- 3       **SECTION 4. REPEAL.** Section 25-06-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is
- 4 repealed.